

JOHN E. PARSONS, 83 YEARS YOUNG, ALERT AS WITNESS

Indicted Attorney on Stand at
Sugar Trust Trial Shows
Clear Memory.

AIDS CO-DEFENDANTS.

Tells All About Segal Loan
From His Standpoint—Some
Questions Ruled Out.

John E. Parsons, former counsel for the Sugar Trust and one of the officials of the American Sugar Refining Company indicted on a charge of conspiracy and violation of the Sherman law, was again on the witness stand to-day before Judge Hand in the Criminal Branch of the Federal Court.

Mr. Parsons, in reply to questions by De Lanoy Nicoll, chief counsel for the defense, said that the direct handling of the \$1,350,000 loan to Adolph Segal, owner of the Pennsylvania Sugar Refinery, was done by Gustav E. Kissel, a New York broker. He said the money went through his office, but that the negotiations were conducted by Kissel and that the money was paid over to Segal by Kissel. Mr. Parsons said the American company had a contract of indemnity with Kissel, holding him responsible for the loan and that the company always spoke of the loan as the "Kissel loan."

Mr. Parsons was the youngest old man in the Federal Court, and despite his eighty-three years he showed an alertness of mind that was remarkable. His replies were directly to the point and he demonstrated that his memory was perfect with respect to the Segal matter, which runs back a number of years.

COURT RULES OUT SOME QUESTIONS PUT BY NICOLL.

De Lanoy Nicoll's efforts to learn from Mr. Parsons whether the Sugar Trust, when it entered into the loan with Segal, knew it was violating the Sherman law or attempted to violate any law, met with objections from United States District Attorney Wiser, who was sustained by the Court. Mr. Nicoll framed a dozen different questions to learn from the witness whether the Trust knew it was violating the Sherman law, but was overruled.

Mr. Parsons said he knew nothing of a letter written to Kissel by the late Henry O. Havemeyer asking Kissel to learn what the Pennsylvania Refinery cost. He told of visits paid men by Kissel, and said the tenor of their talks was to the effect that the company should not be put in the position of refunding payment of the loan by Segal.

He said he emphatically told Kissel that under no circumstances was payment of the loan to be refused. Parsons said his intention was to hold Segal to the contract he had made. He said events had led him to suppose Segal might attempt to violate his contract.

SAYS SEGAL HAD NO RIGHT TO INJURE TRUST.

Parsons said he believed Segal had no right to use the \$1,350,000 loan in any way that would affect the business of the American Company. In this way he explained the efforts of the Trust to prevent the opening of the Pennsylvania refinery before an agreed upon date. Parsons told of a visit paid him

by Thomas B. Harned, Segal's Philadelphia lawyer, who asked that some of Segal's collateral be released and promising that the Pennsylvania Refinery would not be opened for several months. Mr. Parsons says he told Harned they could not place much faith in Segal.

The witness said he learned some time before the maturity of the loan that it was not liable to be paid by Segal. When it came due he was instructed by the company to collect.

Mr. Parsons told of many letters received from Segal, and finally of a visit in which Segal promised to pay the loan.

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